

VZCZCXRO6574
PP RUEHAG RUEHKW RUEHROV
DE RUEHTC #2550 3391317
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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7594
INFO RUCNMUC/EU CANDIDATE STATES COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1957
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1720
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 4950
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 5096
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 1346
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1691
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 2861
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 0155

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 002550

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/05/2016

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SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/CHINA/EU: GONL COMMITTED TO CHINA ARMS
EMBARGO

REF: STATE 194456

Classified By: Political Counselor Andrew Schofer; reasons 1.4 (b, d).

11. (C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche December 5 to MFA Deputy European Correspondent Jeroen Boender, who said he foresaw no change in the EU's position on the China arms embargo. The French call for a discussion of the embargo was, he said, a "Pavlovian reaction to the Finnish Presidency's" placing the Code of Conduct on the December GAERC agenda. "It's just 2005, all over again," said Boender, adding that the GONL believed the French had little support and little chance of success.

12. (C) The GONL, according to Boender, will continue to insist that four criteria be met before a discussion of the embargo is allowed. First, China must improve its human rights record; second, China must address concerns on regional stability and security, including an arms buildup directed at least in part at Taiwan; third, the concerns of key allies - Japan and the U.S. - must be reasonably assuaged; and fourth, the EU must strengthen its code of conduct. None of these criteria have been met to Dutch satisfaction, he said.

13. (C) Boender added that the Dutch still hope to see the Code of Conduct adopted as a common EU position, allowing it to become legally binding on member states. The French tactic has, for now, again prevented any progress on this.
ARNALL